

02 06-03

1712



**HOWREY**  
SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

750 BERING DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TX 77057-2198  
PHONE 713.787.1400  
FAX 713.787.1440  
A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

Writer's Direct Dial  
713-268-1372

#10/a  
2/12/03  
1c

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
SAWDON, Christopher  
BALLARD, David

Serial No.: 09/762,035

Confirmation No. 7442

Filed: 6 June 2001

For: WELLBORE FLUID

Group Art Unit: 1712

Examiner: P. Tucker

Atty. Dkt. No.: 11836.0695.PC/S00  
(MIDR:695)

RECEIVED  
FEB - 7 2003  
T-1700 MAIL ROOM

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

(Paste Express Mail Label Here)

NUMBER EL 831789418 US  
DATE OF DEPOSIT 5 February 2003  
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

*[Signature]*  
Signature

In response to the Office Action mailed 5 November 2002, Applicants request the following:

AMENDMENTS:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A wellbore fluid comprising a substantially water non-soluble particulate material that is degradable under acidic conditions and composed of the reaction product of A) one or more water soluble organic compound having a molecular weight of less than 30,000 and possessing at least two hydroxyl groups and B) any other organic compound(s) capable of forming acetal or hemiacetal cross-links with the hydroxyl groups of compound A.

a'